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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/579,275	05/26/2000	Hideharu Toda	000673	7796

23850 7590 05/22/2003

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP
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WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

LAO, LUN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/579,275

Applicant(s)

TODA ET AL.

Examiner

Lun-See Lao

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Introduction

1. Claims 1-5 of U.S. Application 09/579,275 filed on 05/26/2000 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Washikawa (US PAT 6,492,909).

Consider claims 1-2 Washikawa teaches a component selection control system comprising a plurality of signal output components (see fig.3 (11R-14R)) for outputting AV signals including audio signals and/or video signals, at least one signal input component (11P-14P) for receiving the AV signal, and a signal processing control unit (22, 31) having connected thereto the signal output components (11R-14R) and the signal input component (11P-14P), the signal processing control unit being operable to

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process the AV signal delivered from desired one of the signal output components (11R-14R) as required for sound and/or image reproduction and to feed the AV signal delivered from the desired signal output component (11R-14R) to the signal input component (11P-14P), the component selection control system being characterized in that:

each of the signal output components (see fig.3 (11R-14R)) has an on-off switch provided on a signal output line for delivering the AV signal to the signal processing control unit (22) there through, the signal processing control unit (22) having a common input terminal for receiving the AV signal from the desired signal output component (11R-14R), the signal output lines of the signal output components (11R-14R) being connected to one another at a point connected to the common input terminal of the signal processing control unit (22, 31), the on off switches (21,32) being controllable for opening or closing to select one signal output component for feeding its AV signal to the signal processing control unit (22, 31 and see col.3 line 10-col.4 line 50); and the signal processing control unit (see fig.3, (22, 31)) inherently has a common output terminal for delivering the AV signal to the signal input component (11P-14P), and the common output terminal is connected to a signal input line of the signal input component (11R-14R and see col.4 line 30-col.5 line 60).

Consider claims 3-5 Washikawa teaches a component selection control system comprising a plurality of signal output components (see fig.3 (11R-14R)) for outputting AV signals including audio signals and/or video signals, a plurality of signal input components (11P-14P) for receiving the AV signal, and a signal processing control unit

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(22, 31) having connected thereto the signal output components (11R-14R) and the signal input components (11P-14P), the signal processing control unit being operable to process the AV signal delivered from desired one of the signal output components (11R-14R) as required for audio and/or video reproduction and to feed the AV signal delivered from the desired signal output component to desired one or more of the signal input components (11P-14P), the component selection control system being characterized in that:

each of the signal output components (11R-14R) has an on-off switch (21,32) provided on a signal output line for delivering the AV signal to the signal processing control unit (31) there through, each of the signal input components (11P-14P) having an on-off switch (21,32) provided on a signal input line for receiving the AV signal from the signal processing control unit (22) there through, the signal processing control unit (22,31) inherently having a common input terminal for receiving the AV signal from the desired signal output component and a common output terminal for delivering the AV signal to the desired signal input component (11P-14P), the signal output lines of the signal output components (11R-14R) being connected to one another at a point connected to the common input terminal of the signal processing control unit (22), the signal input lines of the signal input components being connected to one another at a point connected to the common output terminal of the signal processing control unit (31), the on-off switches (21,32) being controllable for opening or closing to select one signal output component for feeding its AV signal to the signal processing control unit (22) and

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to select one or more of the signal input components (11P-14P) for receiving the AV signal from the signal processing control unit (22, 31 and see col.3 line 10-col.5 line 50); and the AV signal to be delivered from the signal output component (11R-14R) and fed to the signal input component (13-14) is an audio signal, and the signal processing control unit comprises an amplifier circuit for amplifying (24) the audio signal received by the common input terminal and feeding the resulting signal to a subsequent speaker (25), and a signal feed line for feeding there through the audio signal received by the common input terminal (see col.7 line 25-col.8 line 20); and each of the signal output components (11R-14R) and the signal input components (11P-14P) inherently has a control circuit (such as 33 (power source circuit) for controlling the on-off switch (21,32) thereof for opening or closing, and the control circuit prepares a control signal for the on-off switch (21,32) in response to a command from a control circuit included in the signal processing control unit (22, 31 and see col.4 15-col.5 line 65).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Heo (US PAT 5,414,417) and Simpson (US PAT 5,838,393) are recited to show other related the component selection control system.

5. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:(703) 872-9314

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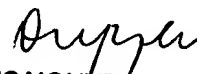
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lao,Lun-See whose telephone number is (703) 305-2259. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 to 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4708.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Lao,Lun-See
Patent Examiner
US Patent and Trademark Office
Crystal Park 2
(703305-2259)


DUC NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER